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In reply to some remarks made by members, Dr. Leidy said he could not admit the doctrine of spontaneous generation,<sup>12</sup> but rather modifications in the essential conditions of life favorable to the development of different and always preexisting germs derived from a parent.

It is but natural that these researches should lead to a discussion of the hypothesis of spontaneous generation and the origin of species. On these further researches I should like to dwell, bearing, as they do, upon the germ theory, but I fear I have already taxed your patience, so I must forbear.

From these published researches, in any historical review of the history of bacteriology, the usual accepted date of Davaine's designation of the vegetal nature of these organisms, *Vibrio*, *Spirillum*, 1859, should be moved back at least another decade to 1849.

JOSEPH LEIDY, JR.

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*SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE*<sup>1</sup>

THE twelfth annual session of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science was held in Kimberley, Cape Province, during the week commencing Monday, July 6, under the presidency of Professor R. Marloth. There was the usual round of festivities and of visits to places of scientific or historic interest. The papers read numbered between forty and fifty. Dr. A. Ogg, professor of physics at Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, in his presidential address to Section A, dealt with some of the ideas in physical science which are under discussion at the present time in the light of recent research, and sought to bring under review some of our fundamental notions or principles, having regard to the fact that what mathematicians and

physicists have long considered well established is now being uprooted and replaced by non-Newtonian mechanics based on the principle of relativity. In Section B the presidential address was given by Professor G. H. Stanley, of the Transvaal School of Mines and Technology, whose subject was "A Decade of Metallurgical Progress on the Witwatersrand." The greatest advances during the last ten years, he said, were in improving methods of carrying out the various stages of the extraction processes, the essentials remaining unchanged. In Section C, comprising the biological sciences and agriculture, the presidential address of Professor George Potts, of Grey University College, Bloemfontein, dealt with rural education. An evening discourse was delivered in the Kimberley City Hall by Professor E. H. L. Schwarz, on the Kimberley diamond pipes, the history of their discovery, and their relation to other South African volcanic vents. This lecture, like Professor Marloth's address as president of the association was illustrated by many lantern slides. The numerous slides exhibited by Professor Marloth were all hand colored, and constituted the most excellent collection representative of South African indigenous flora ever exhibited. At the conclusion of the president's address, Dr. Crawford, the association's senior vice-president, handed to him the South Africa medal (instituted by the British Association in 1905 in commemoration of its visit to South Africa during that year) and grant of £50 which had been conferred upon him in recognition of his eminent services to botanical science in South Africa during the last thirty years.

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*PACIFIC FISHERIES SOCIETY*

ON March 11 a meeting of those interested in the upbuilding and perpetuating of the great fisheries of the Pacific slope was held in Seattle, Wash., and it was decided to form a temporary organization of a society to be known as the Pacific Fisheries Society, and to hold a meeting later in the year for the pur-

<sup>12</sup> For experiments in connection with the theory of spontaneous generation, see "Flora and Fauna within Living Animals," Smithsonian Institution, 1851, *et al.*, published lectures before students of medical department, University of Pennsylvania, 1858 and 1859.

<sup>1</sup> Abridged from a report in *Nature*.